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Hongkong Daily Press.

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No. 14,583 號三十八百五千四萬一第 日五廿月壹十年十三緒光 HONGKONG, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31st, 1904. 陸拜禮 號一十叁月式一年四零百九千一英港香 PRICE, \$3 PER MONTH.

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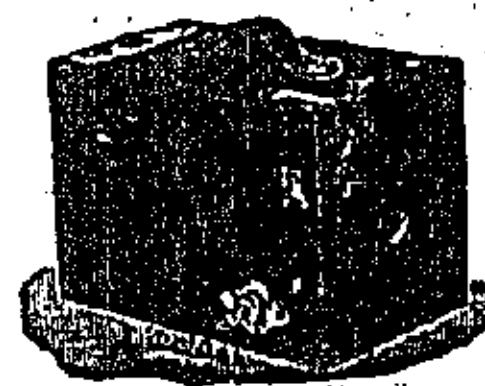
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Hongkong, 7th October, 1904.

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Hongkong, 31st October, 1902.

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No unsolicited signed communications that have
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BIRTH.

On 29th December, at No. 58, Chai Road, the
wife of J. M. V. dos Remedios, of a daughter.
[3032]

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VUEUX ROAD, C.O.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, DECEMBER 31ST, 1904.

We do not like that imagery which asks
us at this time to think of the Old Year as
dying, and the New as one coming to the
birth. The simile is one easily buttressed
by similar similes; but for our present pur-
pose, and for the annually recurring purpose
of all sensible business men, that of "taking
stock," we prefer to regard A. D. 1904 as a
stage of a journey. Thus, though the stage
just ending may have been dreary, full of
perils, or altogether pleasant: though the
stage upon which we are about to enter may
present an aspect dreadful or the reverse;
it is profitable to regard the ending year,
not as a corpse needing hasty burial, but as
an experience from which to extract warn-
ings or new hopes, as the case may require.

Last year, on the whole then, may be
regarded as one affording a by no means
unpleasant retrospect. The horrors of war
have marked its course almost from begin-
ning to end; but the trouble in the houses
of Russia and Japan has had the good effect
of helping to put the British house in order.
The allusion is, of course, to the series of
friendly understandings arranged with other
Powers, which remarkable series has been
attributed, correctly, no doubt, to the per-
sonal influence of His Majesty the King.
There have been alarmist rumours of one
sort or another, only to be expected during
such a year of unrest, but it is still right to
assert, as is done elsewhere, that "our rela-
tions with other Powers continue friendly."
The year began with a certainty of war.
The number of those who failed to see its
inevitableness was small. In the issue with
which we began the year, we declared that
the question was, not "will there be war?"

But "when will it begin?" A very few
weeks sufficed to settle all such speculation;
and a few more weeks startled the world
into its first real sense of the potential
qualities of a new Empire. It is hardly
necessary to review events which have been
kept fresh in our minds by succeeding ones.
At present we are watching anxiously the
desperate efforts of the losing side. Japan
is paramount at sea, and while it is always
unsafe to prophesy, the expectation is that,
even after the advent of the new Russian
Armada, she will continue to hold the sea.
On land the Russians are either penned up,
as at Port Arthur, or driven to the northern
confines of the province out of which Japan
undertook to drive them. One question
affecting our nation, raised by the current
war, was, and is, that of our occupancy of
Wei-haiwei. Anxious enquiries were pur-
sued by the Government; but there is no pro-
bability that any eventuality will cause us
to abandon the place. Our little affair with
Tibet ripened during the year, and the
result is supposed to have been entirely
satisfactory. Disquieting rumours have it
that the *status quo ante bellum* remains, and
that our troops will again have to face the
frosty perils of the high Himalayas. That
is for A.D. 1905 to settle; and with it,
perhaps, some clearer understanding with
Russia as to the interests in those northern
places where our lines have lately seem-
ed so awkwardly to intersect. The
political year was made remarkable by the
development of Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN's
policy of fiscal reform. The noise of the
great discussion reverberated in Hongkong,
where we had debates, lectures, correspon-
dence, and a plebiscite which "went the
whole hog" in an overwhelming majority in
favour of the ex-Colonial Secretary's ideas.
The question of coolie transport to the South
African mines in need of labour seems to
have caused much more fuss at home than
the circumstances required, but there were so
many points of view that it was difficult
to define the main issue. A most important
item of local politics was that introduced
by the petition of 270 Hongkong ladies in
favour of the registration of servants. The
gist of the answer, and the reason why
nothing has yet been done, was Sir HENRY
BLAKE'S *non possumus*. It is to be hoped
that the new Governor which 1904 gave us
will not be daunted by the difficulties, but
that he will, in 1905, see some way of show-
ing that such a scheme is as possible as it
is desirable. The registration of Chinese
partnerships was another question raised
during the year by Sir W. M. GOODMAN,
who, by the way, went home soon after.
Of business done, we may express gratitude
for the issue of Sir JOHN CARRINGTON'S
revised ordinances, and for the adoption of
the Hill District Reservation Bill. There
have been two shocking murders to blench
our year's retrospect, and several serious
fires among many. Religious matters are
presented in a favourable light by the lay-
ing of the foundation stones of two churches
at Kowloon. The year will also be remem-
bered as the year of the rebuilding of the
fine old collegiate church of St. Paul at
Macao.

The past year has not, when looked at
commercially, been a satisfactory one. The
 Russo-Japanese war has not perhaps direct-
ly interfered much with the ordinary trade
with China, but it has, generally speaking,
had a malign and restrictive influence on
operations, and so far as trade with Japan is
concerned, has certainly been obstructive.
Exchange, which last year played such
tricks with business of all kinds, has this
year been a less important factor, though
its uncertainty still serves to impair con-
fidence and limit operations to the supply of
current wants. Although it has been far
from steady, the demand rate fluctuating
from 1/10 9-16 to 15-16 in January to
1/8 15-16 in April, rising again to 1/10 7-16
in August and falling again to 1/9 13-16 in
September, it has on the whole had a
hardening tendency, and at time of writing
it has reached the highest point recorded in
the year, namely, 1/11 9-16. No faith is,
however, felt in the permanence of this im-
provement, and those interested in trade are
not much inclined to act upon it. Until,
therefore, a fixed exchange can be secured,
either with the assistance of the Home Go-
vernment, or by reason of China determining
to place her currency on a gold basis, there
can, we fear, be little chance of any solid
improvement in trade taking place.
The Yarn trade during the past year
has shown a considerable falling off, and
prices for both English and Bombay spin-
nings have fluctuated greatly, owing to the
abnormally high rate ruling for cotton
during the greater part of the twelve months.
The import of Indian grey yarn, as com-
pared with that for 1903, declined some

23 per cent. and sales by nearly 13 per
cent. respectively. In Cotton Piece goods
there has been only a very moderate trade,
and though demand improved after June,
the slump in cotton has made dealers very
anxious, and the market closes stagnant.
The inquiry for Woollen Goods has been
much restricted by the high rates, and
though stocks are small, the market
generally is quiet. A good business has,
however, been done in blankets, chiefly for
the north. The market for Metals has not,
on the whole, been active, the demand for
pig and bar iron being smaller than last
year, while the consumption of lead, yellow
metal and quicksilver also shows a decline,
but a large business has been done in tin-
plates at remunerative prices. The Opium
trade has been characterised by heavy
fluctuations, and owing to the speculative
nature of the business it would be difficult
to say whether it has proved remunerative
or not. The trade has not been affected
by the Russo-Japanese war. Prices generally
have ruled higher than last year. The
Flour trade, which has for many years
been growing steadily in importance, has
during the past year been less satisfactory
than usual owing to the heavy stocks
carried over and a considerable falling off
in consumption. An improvement in de-
mand has been apparent, however, during
the latter months of the year. The Coal
trade has to some extent felt the influence
of the war; demand has been less brisk
and prices for Japan varieties have ruled lower
less bunkering having been done by vessels
passing through. The price of Cardiff has
been maintained, but the trade in it has
been smaller than last year. In Kerosene
Oil there has not been much increase in the
volume of the trade done, and the prices
ruling in 1903 have not been maintained,
those rates having been upheld through the
supply being limited. The development of
other oil fields in the United States and
consequent augmented production has served
to bring down rates very considerably, viz.,
from \$3.20 per case to \$2.60 per case. The
prospects for the future point to further
competition, since the Californian oil, which
is now produced in great abundance, and
has already reached the North China
market, will enter the field here as a com-
petitor during the year 1905. With regard
to Exports, the trade has, save in one or two
cases, been barely maintained. Tea has for
some years been a slowly vanishing quantity,
and the export of Macao and Canton teas has
during the year under review shown a fur-
ther reduction. In Silk the trade has been
remunerative to exporters, though the
volume of business was smaller than last
year, and the losses then made have prob-
ably been recouped in 1904. Producers,
however, are said to have found the year an
unprofitable one. The Sugar trade in 1904
has been very satisfactory, demand having
been good from most quarters, and prices,
owing to the short crop of beet, have ad-
vanced considerably, yielding good profits to
the refiners and exporters. In Sundries
there has, on the whole, been a reduced
trade, the export of maiting, soy, pre-
served ginger, and essential oils having
fallen off from various causes. The
Freight market, which at the close of
1903 promised badly, greatly improved
during the past year. Commencing in
February, coastwise charters were effected
at rising rates, which have been fairly
maintained throughout the year, owing
principally to demand on Japanese account,
which has taken a good deal of tonnage off
the market. A number of steamers
have also found purchasers, chiefly in
Japan. For Southern ports the chartering
has been limited, owing to the high rates
asked. The Stock market has shown con-
siderable activity during a great portion of
the year, and prices of several stocks have
advanced materially. Heavy settlements for
December, combined with the tightness of
money, have latterly brought about some
reaction, and the market closes much
weaker, with sellers predominating.

There will be no issue of the *Daily Press* on
Monday next.

On page 5 will be found an article sent
us by the author, Mr. C. H. Halcombe, who is
well known all over China.

Parts XIII and XIV of the *Kobe Chronicle*'s
illustrated diary of the war have reached us
through Messrs. W. Brewer & Co. They con-
tain another excellent lot of photographs, much
better than the war pictures being published at
home.

The hospital steamer *Rohilla-maru*, which
stranded in the Shimonsaki Strait on the 16th
Dec., was refloated on the 19th. She under-
went temporary repairs at Moji and left on
the 21st under her own steam, for Kobe to be
docked there.

H.M.S. *Vengeance* left for Mirs Bay
yesterday.

The U.S. cruiser *Cincinnati* arrived from
Cavite yesterday.

The November exports from Nagasaki were
valued at Yen 409,773, and the imports at Yen
594,248. The value of the imports exceeded
that of the exports by Yen 124,475.

The Band of the 2nd Royal West Kent
Regiment will play in the Public Gardens on
Tuesday next, 3rd January, 1905, from 4
to 6 p.m.

The committee appointed by Governor
Arakawa to forward the scheme for a new
Nagasaki Steamship Company, assembled at
the International Club recently. The *Nagasaki
Press* says they estimate that Yen 400,000 will
be required to commence operations, and they
suggest that, with this sum, two of the re-
second-hand steamers be purchased in order to
open a Korean service.

P.C. Price charged an American sailor,
before Mr. Hazeland at the Police Court yester-
day, with behaving in a disorderly manner at
the City Hall on Thursday night last. The
constable was taking the sailor to the lock-up,
when his friend came along and urged him to
resist. He did. Both defendants appeared
before His Worship. The friend of the first
prisoner was fined \$5, and for disorderly conduct
and resisting the Police the original offender
was fined \$10.

By kind permission of Col. Caulfield and
officers, the band of the 110th Mahratta Light
Infantry will play the following selections at
the Hongkong Hotel this (Saturday) evening:
March—"The Firemen"..... Wright
Selection—"The Geisha"..... Jones
Valse—"Beautiful Ferns"..... Seidel
Characteristic Piece—"Christmas Bells"..... Seidel
Selection—"A Gaily Girl"..... Jones
Galeop—"God Save the King"..... Meyer

MENU—Hors d'oeuvres, Anchovy Canapes,
Soup—Potage a la Reine. Fish—Salmon au Gratin.
Entrée—Grilled Fillet of Beef a la Jardiniere,
Sweetbread Outlets and Mushrooms, Cabbage
Farce, Curry—Oyster, Joints, &c.—Roast Rib
of Beef, Roast Phenat and Fowl Sauce, Boiled
Chicken and Celery Sauce, Cold Sheep's Head
Brown and Cauliflower Salad, Sweet-Arrow-
root Pudding, Vanilla Ice Cream and Finger
Cakes, Apple Tart, Topsy Cake, Dessert—
Coffee, Fruit.

TO-DAY'S GAMES.

FOOTBALL.

This (Saturday) afternoon a team represent-
ing the Press of Hongkong will meet the
Y.M.C.A. under Association rules, on the
Victoria Recreation Club Ground, Causeway
Bay, kindly lent by the Y.R.C. Kick-off at
4.30 o'clock. The following are the teams:
Press—G. T. Lloyd, goal; H. M. Bain and
L. A. J. Lee, backs; T. Clarke, A. Cunningham
and J. W. Bains, halves; E. A. Shewin, J. L.
Cotter, J. F. Haynes, T. Rutherford and H. W.
Strike forwards.
Y.M.C.A.—Rutledge, goal; Hamilton and
Ellis, backs; Piercy, Ellis, and Le Breton,
halves; Scott, McCorquodale, Moore, Kemp-
thorne, and Saunders, forwards.

We believe Mr. Tom Clarke, of the staff
of our morning contemporary, has been chiefly
instrumental in arranging this fixture. We
trust the result will be a pleasant game,
and, as in duty bound, we hope for the success
of our confreres. This is a splendid opportunity
for some players to get even by criticising
the play of their whilom critics, and no doubt
we shall be favoured with something of the kind.

H.K.F.C. v. H.M.S. "ALBION."

This (Saturday) afternoon the Hongkong
Football Club will play H.M.S. *Albion* under
Association Rules—kick-off at 4 p.m. The
Club team is as follows:—To Come, goal; W.
G. Leckie and F. Grone, backs; H. C. Gray,
F. C. Hall and E. F. Aucott, halves; H. Seth,
W. B. Elwes, S. O. Else, J. Clark and H. L.
Garrett, forwards.

CRICKET.

H.C.C.C. v. THE GARRISON.

This annual match will take place on Satur-
day and Monday, the 31st December and
2nd January. Play commences each day at
11.30 a.m. The following are the teams:—
GARRISON.
R. E. Bird, Col. Mosse, 114th Mals.
H. C. Bailey, Lt. Atry, 114th Mals.
W. Daniel, Major Pedley, R.W.K.R.
J. T. Dixon, Capt. Jos. in, R.W.K.R.
W. Dixon, Lt. Graham, R.W.K.R.
Walter Dixon, Capt. Smith, A.D.C.R.A.
K. Hancock, Lt. Lumden, R.A.
H. Hancock, Lt. Henth, 110th Mals.
G. H. Mackay, Lt. Doran, A.S.C.
G. E. Morrell, Lt. Rankin, B.A.M.C.
T. E. Pearce, Capt. Davies, A.O.D.

CRAIGENOWER C.C. v. R.E.

This League match will take place this after-
noon on the ground of the former club, com-
mencing at 2.15 p.m. The Craigenower team
will be—L. E. Lamont, M. E. Agor, A.
O. Brown, J. E. Kinnaird, L. A. Rose, E.
S. Ford, E. Bass, J. L. Stuart, J. P. Jordan,
Almada Castro, and E. Rozz.

H.K.F.C. "A" v. R.A.M.C.

The following will play for the Hongkong
C.C. Reserves v. the R.A.M.C. on the Happy
Valley at 2 p.m. to-day:—Messrs. A.
McKenzie, E. A. Fowler, C. H. Fal-
loon, V. de Paris, A. Oliver, O. C. Olliffe,
A. Cantrell, F. T. Gibson, C. F. Wilson, R. R.
Holley, and A. C. Butt (capt.).

LEAGUE TABLE.

The following is the League table up to
date:—

Club	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
A.O.C.	10	8	1	1	25
Kowloon	7	5	2	0	15
H.K.P.	8	4	2	2	14
R.E.	9	3	3	3	12
R.G.A. 83rd Co.	7	3	2	2	11
Craigenower	7	3	3	1	10
Civil Service	9	2	5	2	8
H.K.C.C. "A"	4	1	0	3	6
R.A.M.C.	10	2	8	0	6
Parsees	5	0	5	0	0

TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL NEWS.

["DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.]

RE-ARMING THE ARMY.

LONDON, 30th December.
Following my recent telegram referring
to the condemnation of our obsolete artillery
the British Government has ordered
sufficient eighteen-and-a-half-pounders to
re-arm the whole army. The order is to be
completely filled within two years. The
cost is £2,500,000.

[REUTER'S SERVICE.]

BRITISH NAVAL BASE IN THE
NORTH SEA.

LONDON, 28th December.
It is reported that the idea of a naval base at
the Firth of Forth has been shelved, Admiral
Sir John Fisher desiring to devote all the
money available to the construction of new
ships.

RUSSIA.

LONDON, 28th December.
The assemblage at the Pavloff Hall was
widely representative; it was called a banquet
to evade the prohibition against meetings and
was only concluded at 2.30 a.m. The speeches
were the most fervid; a resolution denounced the
war and demanded a legislature, elected by
means of the ballot. The President and fifty
members of the Cheregov Zemstvo have resign-
ed in consequence of a Communiqué; the branch
therefore has been dissolved. Prince Galitzine
and the Mayor of Moscow have resigned.
These and other incidents indicate the growing
ferment.

The recent Decree of the Tsar is so worded
that it is variously regarded as conceding much
and as conceding nothing beyond vague prom-
ises; meanwhile the unqualified language of
the Government Communiqué causes deep
disappointment to the Reformers. The Moscow
Zemstvo has adjourned indefinitely after adopt-
ing a resolution declaring that the Delegates
are so concerned at yesterday's Communiqué
that they are unable to conduct the business of
the branch with the necessary calm.

LATER.

The St. Petersburg Municipality has resolved
to petition for the convening of a Congress of
the representatives of the Municipalities of
Russia.

BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHE.

LONDON, 29th December.
General Slade starts to-day for Yokohama.

NEW ARTILLERY FOR THE
BRITISH ARMY.

LONDON, 29th December.
The War Office has placed orders with
Armstrongs and Vickers-Maxims for new 18
1/2 pounder field guns, sufficient to supply the
whole army.

THE WAR.

["DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.]

TOGO TO TOKYO.

Kobe, 30th December.
Admirals Togo, Kaminura, Shimamura,
and other officers arrived to-night on their
way to Tokyo. They had a tremendous
ovation.

TO RECALL THE BALTIC ARMADA.

LONDON, 30th December.
There is a growing demand in Russia for
the recall of the Baltic Fleet. Reform
agitation is growing.

[BY COURTESY OF THE JAPANESE CONSUL.]

BOOTY AT URLUNGSHAN.

Tokyo, 30th December.
The Port Arthur army reports that our
occupation of Urlungshan fort was com-
pletely assured on the night of the 28th.

The booty included, among other things,
four large calibre guns, seven small calibre
guns, thirty 37-millimetre guns, and two
machine guns.

[REUTER'S SERVICE.]

RUSSIA.

LONDON, 28th December.
A banquet of 1,000 people has been given
at Pavloff Hall, St. Petersburg, to protest
against the war; the day chosen was the
anniversary of the revolution of 1825. The
speakers, who declared that the restoration
of peace was hopeless so long as Russia had
no constitution, were vociferously applauded.

A meeting of Zemstvos in the province of
Moscow became a very excited one, and
caused demonstrations in the streets, where
thousands who were unable to obtain ad-
mission cheered noisily.

THE NEUTRALITY OF HOLLAND.

LONDON, 28th December.

It is pointed out at The Hague that the
neutrality of Sabang will be maintained by
two battleships, two armoured cruisers, a
gunboat and four destroyers which are now

there, while three other battleships are now
in the archipelago and two more warships
are leaving Holland as a reinforcement.

THE NORTH SEA ENQUIRY.

LONDON, 29th December.
Admiral Kasnakoff, the Russian repre-
sentative on the North Sea enquiry tribunal,
is returning to Russia and Vice-Admiral
Dubassoff has been appointed in his place.
No reason for the change is stated.

ADMIRAL SKRYDLOFF RETURNING
TO RUSSIA.

LONDON, 29th December.
Admiral Skrydloff is returning to Russia
from Vladivostok.

A LEADER OF CHINESE BRIGANDS.

APPLICATION FOR EXTRADITION.

At the Police Court yesterday afternoon,
before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Chief Detective
Inspector Hanson applied, on behalf of the
Chinese Government, for the extradition of Ko
Ah Ying, who is alleged to have committed the
crime of armed robbery within the jurisdiction
of China. Mr. Hanson stated that on the
28th November the prisoner was given in
charge by Indian constable No. 523. The
people who gave him into custody were from
Kwang Ning. Witnesses from this city
have arrived here since the arrest and will give
evidence to the effect that on the 28th Septem-
ber last a large number of armed men invested
the district city of Kwang Ning. Three of
these witnesses belong to a pawnshop outside
the city gates, which was broken into. The
robbers stole a considerable amount of money
and goods. As some of the witnesses know the
prisoner, he was not identified in the orthodox
way in the gaol. The pawnshop was set fire to
when there were about 50 robbers inside, who
were armed with knives, muskets, etc. When
the alarm was given they all ran out, and
the shop was burnt down.

Leung Sun Tong, the first witness, said:—I am
master of the Yeung Ching pawnshop at Kwang
Ning City, in the province of Kwang
Tung. On the 28th September an attack was
made upon the city by a band of robbers. I
heard the report of firearms, and in consequence
closed the doors of the shop. Five of my folks
took fright and ran away. My partner, myself
and a watchman remained in the shop. At 12
noon that day the pawnshop was attacked. A
rumbling noise was heard, and also the report
of firearms. I was on the ground floor. Our
front door was broken in and I ran up to the
first floor. Fifty or sixty armed men then
rushed in, some carrying firearms and some
swords. The prisoner was amongst them. He
held a revolver in his hand. He caught hold of
me and asked where my money was. I said,
"In the safe." The defendant demanded the
key, at the same time striking me over the
shoulders with a revolver. I gave him the
key. He took 4,300 taels from the safe.

He also took from my wrist a jade-stem-
handle. The other robbers helped themselves
to goods in the shop and then set fire to it.
The shop was burnt down. I then went to my
family house, which is some distance from the
city, and did not return for some days because
the robbers had besieged the city, and were
plundering the outside villages. It was not till
the arrival of the Government troops that the
robbers could be driven away. Besides the
money I lost, clothing to the value of 28,000
taels was either looted or burnt. I also lost
3,600 taels' worth of jewellery. I reported the
matter to the district Magistrate on the 4th
October. I am quite sure defendant is the man
who held me up. The Kwang Ning City is
five days' journey from Canton.

Kwong Ying Ting, a partner of the last
witness in the pawnshop, corroborated the
evidence of Leung Sun Tong. Other witnesses
identified the prisoner, and His Worship
remanded the case until to-day.

Sanitary Inspector L. E. Brett has been ap-
pointed Senior Inspector in charge of the
Eastern District. Senior Inspector Lyons has
been transferred from thence to Kowloon.

Mr. W. J. Lexington has been enrolled as a
member of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps.
He is to be assigned to Corps No. 825, and
posted to No. 8 F. division left half No. 1
Artillery Company.

The inquiry in connection with the recent
fire in a godown at Des Vaux Road came on
for hearing before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at
the Magistrate's yesterday. On the application
of Inspector Collett the release of the premises
was further deferred for a week.

We are glad to welcome the well-known
"Imperial English and Chinese Diary and
Almanac," which Messrs. Kelly & Walsh have
published for nineteen years. All the usual
excellent features are included in No. 1 size for
1905.

Shortly after two o'clock yesterday morning
a fire broke out in a shop at No. 16, Wing Kut
Street. The brigade were quickly on the
scene, but the fire had such a hold that by the
time it was got under, practically nothing was
saved. The building and goods were insured to
the amount of \$1,000.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain at Rugby grew
eloquent on the alleged wickedness of the
Opposition in not being willing to help exclude
from "our own land" criminal aliens who come
here "to compete with our own people and to
take the bread out of their mouths." The
Westminster Gazette asks: Did he really im-
agine he was addressing an audience of burglars,
thus depriving of their chance of making an
honest living?

THE TRADE OF HONGKONG FOR 1904.

The following summary of the trade of Hongkong for the past year will, it is hoped, prove interesting to our readers. It has been carefully compiled, and the facts have been gleaned from the most reliable sources.

English Yarns.—In 1904, there has been but a small business, price being too high. Japanese and Bombay Yarns to a great extent taking their place. In 1903, a very small business was done. A few more demand this year, with delivery running well into next year; dealers' commitments were rather heavy at high prices. Spinners apparently being well engaged, are now asking late shipment as a rule.

Bombay Yarns.—The trade in Indian grey yarn during the year has shown a marked decline, as will be seen by the arrivals and sales given below:

Arrivals.	Sales.
In 1903—293,850 bales.	170,495 bales.
1904—224,820 bales.	147,510 bales.

Decrease.—69,030 bales. 22,965 bales. This shows a decrease of 23 1/2 per cent. on imports and nearly 13 1/2 per cent. on sales respectively. This shrinkage was chiefly due to the abnormally high prices of both cotton and yarn consequent on scarcity of raw material and the manipulations of the American market. Prices steadily advanced, with a few occasional falls, throughout the year. Five of the Bombay mills were closed during a great part of the year, but some improvement has set in latterly, and most of the mills have secured favourable contracts as far ahead as July-August next to the tune of 20,000 bales for the China markets and are now working full time.

The local cotton yarn mill suffered with the rest during 1904, but with a better supply of raw material at lower prices is increasing its production.

Japanese Yarns.—Owing to the warlike business has fallen off considerably, production on being curtailed, and high prices asked. On the dealers' side the result of their transactions in Yarns generally is the admission "small chance."

Imports.—The trade in opium during 1904 was characterized by heavy fluctuations, and owing to the speculative nature of the business it is impossible to say how far it was remunerative to importers. For the Chinese dealers, however, the results have not been favourable. The trade was unaffected by the war in the North. Prices for Bengal drug fluctuated with exchange, but on the whole ruled higher than in 1903, and demand showed no falling off. Malwa was in somewhat less inquiry, and that for Persian showed a heavy decline. The following table of Imports and Exports, from January to November, 1903 and 1904, shows the course of the trade:

Imports.	Exports.
Malwa, Persia, Bengal, Persian, etc.	Opium, etc.
1903—5,079 22,351 3,408 6,521 19 94 10,034 chests	1903—8,001 22,351 3,408 6,521 19 94 10,034 chests
1904—7,033 20,661 3,384 4,534 35 111-42,251	1904—10,919 19,239 3,638 4,517 37 34-39,702

PICKS GOODS.

Cotton Goods.—In the first few months of the year the business done was very moderate, but matters improved considerably about June, and fair quantities of goods have changed hands since. The slump in cotton, however, has made dealers very anxious, and grave fears are now held for the losses that may have to be faced on the purchases coming forward. Enquiry from the country is practically nil at present. If Cotton had remained in the region of say 5 1/2 to 6, there would have been a good business passing at the present time, instead of stagnation. Shanghai and Japan have taken off considerable quantities of Drills and Heavy Goods during the last few months, and this has assisted matters somewhat, fair prices being realized. The trade in Mexican is declining every year, as the natives manufacture similar goods themselves from Bombay and Japanese Yarns.

Fancies.—Fairly heavy stocks are held by dealers of high priced cargo, and until these go into consumption business is likely to be curtailed, particularly under the present conditions of this market. Arbitration for claims seems to be the order of the day, often, it must be said, on account of the wilful or otherwise inattention to details of contracts on the part of suppliers &/or shippers. In good times many of these claims might not have been made, but it is only natural that dealers should try and cut losses when an opportunity is afforded them.

Woolens.—Prices have been too high, so consumption has fallen off, and Cotton goods are taking their place to a great extent. Stocks are small, but notwithstanding this the market is in a bad way. The Japanese appear to be supplying Formosa now with Camlets, Lastings, etc. There has been a very good business done in Blankets, however, chiefly for the North for war purposes doubtless.

METALS.

Pig Iron.—Imports have shown a reduction owing to the troubles in the North, and prices have ruled weak nearly all the year until recently.

Bar Iron & Nail Rods.—The business done shows no increase on that of last year, and has apparently been transacted with little profit to dealers, except perhaps at the beginning of the year.

Tin Plates.—A large business has been transacted possibly 50 per cent. more than last year, and good profits have resulted towards the end of the year. Japan has been a good customer lately.

Lead.—The consumption has fallen off and prices gradually declined during the best part of the year, but the market is stronger at present.

Yellow Metal.—Imports of this have been reduced by about 50 per cent., but otherwise the business done has been more or less satisfactory; prices have advanced recently.

Zinc Sheet.—A moderate business only has been current, but of a more or less satisfactory character.

Wire Nails.—A fair increase over last year, and pretty good profits have as a rule resulted.

Quicksilver.—Demand has fallen off considerably—at least 25 per cent.—owing to importation of Vermilion, and prices have gradually declined with exception of a small spurt, which did not last long.

Window Glass.—The Import shows an appreciable reduction, partly owing to strikes at home, but fair results on business are admitted.

Old & Waste Metals.—The consumption has exhibited a considerable decrease, owing to Northern troubles. The war has helped trade in some respects, but has hindered in others.

COAL.

With regard to Japanese Coal, supplies have been more than ample, and prices have consequently weakened. Many firms laid in stocks, naturally anticipating difficulty in getting supplies on account of the war, a conclusion that proved erroneous, and less bunkering has been done than usual by vessels passing through. The price of Cardiff Coal has been maintained at \$17.18 ex ship, but the trade in this quality has been more limited this year. Hongkong as a smokeless coal is in greater requisition for industrial purposes.

1903	1904
American 2,520,000 cases	2,600,000 cases.
Russian 30,000	200,000
Borneo 1,220,000	90,000
Sumatra 1,210,000	1,380,000
Langkat 250,000	280,000
Burmah 100,000	100,000

5,240,000 cases 5,430,000 cases.

1903	1904
American \$3.20 per case	\$2.60 per case.
Russian 2.95	2.42
Borneo 2.95	2.20
Sumatra 2.95	2.20
Langkat 2.70	2.10
Burmah 2.70	1.10

The average prices paid were:—

The Burmah oil made its first appearance on this market during 1904, and, being of a rather poor quality, has not so far made much progress. A great reduction has, it will be seen, taken place in prices all round as compared with those ruling in 1903, when there was a short supply. Now with the opening of the Californian and Texan oil fields there is a much larger production and consequent greater competition, which is likely to be keener in the coming year, inasmuch as the Californian oil, already being imported into North China, will also be brought into this market. It is worthy of note that last year's production of oil in California was greater than that of any State in the Union. Very little Russian oil now comes into the Hongkong market.

RICE.

Prices dropped 5c. in the first quarter, and have remained fairly steady since, but the business has been somewhat curtailed. Stocks of Siam Rice are light, and Saigon nil, owing to floods in that district.

FLOUR.

This year commenced badly owing to high prices on the Pacific Coast, and heavy stocks locally, and a great falling off in demand generally. The latter part of the year has, however, seen an improvement. Stocks have lightened for Portland Flour, but stocks of Californian Flour are rather heavy; consumption slow.

The following table shows the comparative imports for the past ten years:—

California, Oregon & Wash. Total

July 1897 to July 1903 1,813,330 2,215,751 = 3,812,141

1898 889 1,692,110 3,5-246 = 4,742,356

1899 1,900 2,053,356 3,167,791 = 5,347,148

1900 1,784,310 3,983,291 = 5,647,601

1901 1,902 2,548,003 3,57,045 = 5,597,248

1902 1,903 2,243,305 3,129,342 = 5,343,777

1903 1,904 2,008,035 2,456,844 = 4,464,899

July 19 4 to 18 Dec. 1904 922,000 1,050,000 = 1,992,000

Although from these returns there is an apparent falling off in the import, there has been none in the local consumption, as most of the large supplies for Vladivostok, Chefoo and Newchwang, formerly all transhipped hence to these ports, have latterly gone direct.

SILK.

Exporters' losses last season are likely to be made up this, but producers have not made money owing to the poor condition of the silkworms. The volume of trade has been smaller than in 1903, but higher prices generally have been realised.

TEA.

This export has of late years become more or less a negligible quantity here, and the decline in volume has been continued in 1904, the estimated total export of Macao and Canton Teas for this season being 1,250,000 lbs. as compared with some 1,437,000 lbs. in 1903.

SUGAR.

This industry has done well throughout the year. Owing to the shortage in the Beet crop, prices of all grades of Cane Sugar have advanced, and the local refineries have been working full time, earning large profits.

PRESERVED GINGER.

The high price of sugar has adversely affected producers, but competition has kept prices steady all the same. Exports have fallen off considerably.

SOY.

Exports have been reduced, owing to the lack of demand abroad.

MATTING.

The demand for Chinese matting is steadily falling off, owing to the superiority of the Japanese manufacture.

ESSENTIAL OILS.

Exports during the past year have decreased, prices being too high owing to the difficulty of getting supplies from Kwangsi.

MATERIAL IMPROVEMENTS AT CANTON.

Considerable improvements are proceeding in Canton, which city is beginning to show signs of commercial development. Wharves and godowns are being built on the Honam and Fati sides, and preparation made for direct trading. The channel of the river is being improved and the Shamone Municipality is altering the drainage system to open surface drains at a cost of \$30,000.

TONNAGE.

The year 1903 closed with low rates of freight, only 7 to 8 cents per picul offering for Saigon, but a marked improvement took place early in 1904. During February the demand for Tonnage increased at rising rates coastwise and especially for time charters, principally for Japanese account. During the months of May and June rates weakened somewhat, and the decline continued up to the end of July, when it again strengthened, and the improvement has continued to the present. The principal feature in Freight during the past year has been the large number of settlements, of steamers on time charters on what may be taken as good paying rates for owners. The bulk of these settlements were for the North, and on Japanese account. A number of steamers have also found purchasers, mostly in Japan such vessels being usually from fifteen to twenty years old. In the South the chartering on time has been very limited, owing to the high rates obtainable in the North, and the removal hence of much of the Tonnage generally available. The closing rates for Saigon are from 16 to 17 cents per picul.

THE CONDITION OF THE CANTON DELTA.

Armed robbery and blackmailing is rampant in the Canton delta, etc. and this not only affects travelling—for all that can afford to do so have brought their families to Canton, Macao and Hongkong—but the risks attendant on transport of goods is so great, that trade is partially paralysed thereby. Many rich and influential men, including Hongkong dealers etc. have been held up for heavy ransom, and threatened with death if this is not paid. This state of affairs is disgraceful at this time of day, more especially as the delta and West River districts are being so much opened up by steam traffic, but Chinese official apathy is well known, and the efforts made to repress piracy are singularly ineffective. The present Viceroy apparently has his hands full with rebels in Kwangsi, and another stern and forceful character like Li Hung-chang is wanted to bring order to these districts. His administration in Canton was short, but more or less a reign of terror to evildoers, especially these piratical gentry who now carry on their occupation with so much impunity. Cannot the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce take up this matter seriously, and urge on the authorities the desirability of British gunboats with Chinese officials on board being allowed to patrol the waterways again, dealing out sums man punishment to robbers and criminals caught red handed. A general police service, with Indian constables under the control of the Imperial Maritime Customs, who already employ Indians for frontier patrol work, would help matters very materially.

GARRISON ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS

HONGKONG, 30th December, 1904.

Duties.—No. 1. Detail of officers for the ensuing week:—(a) Prison Visitor Major S. H. Pedley, 2nd Royal West Kent Regt; (b) Field Officer of the week, Capt. C. M. F. Watkins, Royal Engineers; next for duty, Capt. E. C. L. Fitzwilliams, Army Service Corps; (c) Subaltern Officer of the week, an officer, Royal Garrison Artillery; next for duty, an officer 2nd Royal West Kent Regt. Kowloon, (d) Field Officer of the week, Capt. H. C. Steen, 114th Mahrattas; next for duty, Major J. H. Ransom, 114th Mahrattas; (e) Subaltern Officer of the week, an officer, 114th Mahrattas; next for duty, an officer, 93rd Burma Infantry.

Divine Service.—No. 2. Divine Service will be conducted on Sunday as follows:—

Denominations Where held Hour To Officiate

Ch. of Victoria Cathedral 8.30 a.m. Chaplain

Ch. of Lyman The Under

England Stone Barracks 11.15 a.m. Chaplain

Ch. of St. John's 4 p.m. Chaplain

Ch. of St. John's 11 a.m. Off. Clerg.

Presby. Victoria Church 10.15 a.m. Off. Clerg.

Wesleyan Victoria Church 10.15 a.m. Off. Clerg.

Roman Catholic 9 a.m. Off. Clerg.

Roman Catholic 7.30 a.m. Off. Clerg.

Launch will leave A.S.C. Pier for Stonecutters at 10.15 a.m. Escorts as under will be furnished by the 2nd Royal West Kent Regt. to conduct prisoners to church, Church of England, 8 N.C.O. 1 Man 1.15 a.m.

GENERAL ORDERS—Departures.—No. 200. The undermentioned officers left on the 28th instant per s.s. Java for Shanghai en route to Tientsin for duty:—2nd Grenadier Guards, Lieut. Lord B. C. Gordon-Lennox, 1st Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Lieut. R. N. Phillips; 2nd Royal West Kent Regiment, Lieut. E. H. Norman and Lieut. A. H. Pullman.

By Order

A. A. CHICHESTER, Major, Chief Staff Officer.

BIG FIRE AT CANTON YESTERDAY.

We were informed just as we were going to press this morning, that there was a big conflagration at Canton yesterday, on the Honam side. "About three hundred" native dwellings, mostly makeshifts, were said to have blazed away. The fire started early in the forenoon, and our informant states that at three o'clock, when he left, it was still burning. Our Canton correspondent has sent nothing.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 30th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUNISH JUDGE).

DEUTSCH ASIATISCHE BANK v. THE WUI SHING HING BANK.

The hearing of this action was continued. The plaintiffs alleged that they had suffered damage by reason of a breach by the defendants of a contract dated the 4th October, 1904, made between the plaintiffs and the defendants, whereby the defendants agreed to purchase from the plaintiffs a sailing draft on London, payable on demand for the sum of £2,000 sterling at exchange 1s. 9 1/2 d. and which said contract was to complete their purchase on the 30th November, 1904, and the plaintiffs had suffered damages to the extent of \$785.85 by the defendants' breach of their contract.

As before, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiff bank; and Mr. N. Ferrers, instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Mr. G. K. H. Brutton's office), for the defendant bank.

Mr. H. Figgis, manager of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, deposed: An effort to compromise reached my hearing on the 3rd December. I saw three strange men inside the bank, and one of them was brought to me by the Comptroller. \$1,600 was offered in settlement of this and other matters between our bank and the defendant bank. I refused.

Cross-examined—The Comptroller does no business which is not referred to me; he vouchers for the Chinese whom he introduces. In my private book Chinese customers may be mentioned merely as Chinese, but in the other books it is different. Should there be any loss in this matter it would fall on the Comptroller. I do not know how they (the Chinese) would manage in such a case. For all I know they might divide the loss among themselves. The demand draft was not an actual draft; I have to sell it later. An original draft was not in existence, but I had to draw one later to cover myself. If the defendants had paid the \$785.84 I should not have had to draw a fresh draft to cover myself. Say, for instance, that I sell to any man \$1,600; this \$1,600 I buy, if possible, at once. If I failed to do so I should be speculating on exchange. I buy this thus and if it is not taken up I have to sell again to cover my purchase. The original draft was not drawn because it was not taken up, but two others were. A draft cannot be drawn till the demand draft is due.

Mr. Ferrers—If these two are taken up in January no demand draft will have to be drawn?

Witness—I have to cover myself. If he pays the difference he comes to me and offers that I should buy what I have sold to him, and I have to sell to some one else—against this I have to sell some man sterling.

Mr. Ferrers—All this is fictitious!

Mr. Figgis—It is not fictitious.

Witness—They will be drawn to someone else, but not to him.

Mr. Ferrers—Is it not true that you would not do anything, but just take the difference. Is not all this something nothing?

Witness—No. I have to cover myself. There is nothing more as far as the man is concerned, but there is as far as the bank is concerned.

Mr. Ferrers—Would it not be possible to do as I say?

Witness—Yes, but if I did so I am afraid I would be dismissed to-morrow.

Mr. Ferrers—He would have made profit if exchange had gone down?

Witness—If all depends what he did with the money, he might have bought goods which had gone home.

Mr. Ferrers—You must admit this; we will get no further if you do not (laughing).

Witness—There are, of course, speculations in exchange at Hongkong. If a man has no other business in connection with a transaction like this it is speculation in exchange—dealing in differences. I object to deal in differences.

Mr. Ferrers—I suppose it is done outside?

Witness—I would not like to give an opinion on other people's business.

Re-examined—I did actually sell to cover myself; I had sold to him originally \$2,000, and had to buy a similar amount. Some assets of the bank are kept in sterling, and some in dollars. These transactions have to be kept equally balanced, as much as possible, each day I may be a few days overdue, but I have to balance each day if possible.

Further evidence was led, and the case adjourned.

THE HO FAT KEE v. LI KAN TAI.

The hearing of this action came on for the third time. The plaintiff claimed \$150 plus \$105.9; \$10 being claimed as \$50.95 on account of a bill of exchange. Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared on behalf of the plaintiff firm of contractors, doing business at No. 49, Queen's Road East. The defendant, a junk owner whose junk is under arrest, was represented by Mr. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office). The plaintiff alleged that the money had been lent by him to the defendant.

At the previous hearing the defendant said he had paid the money to Ho Fat, a partner in the Ho Fat Kee shop, and a witness for the defence said he had seen Ho Fat at a quarter to two that afternoon, just outside the Supreme Court, but instead of waiting to give evidence, he had gone off in a rickshaw with the plaintiff.

Ho Fat appeared in Court and gave evidence. He said that he was one of the partners in the Ho Fat Kee, he had been repaid the money in question, and the receipt produced by the defendant was a true one. On the previous occasion he had come to the Court to give evidence, when he met the plaintiff, who managed the business. The plaintiff told him to go to the shop, saying that the matter before the Court did not concern him—it was a matter between Ma Seung Tong and Li Kan Tai, the defendant. The plaintiff then took him to Mr. Thomson's office, where he was detained. They said the police wanted to arrest him, and he was shored into a closet.

His Honour asked the plaintiff to show reasons why he should not be sent to prison for wilful perjury.

The plaintiff said that Ho Fat was not a partner, and there was no proof that he had received the money.

His Honour sentenced the man to six weeks' hard labour, and gave judgment for the defendant with costs.

KODAK

FILMS

& ACCESSORIES.

DEVELOPING AND PRINTING UNDERTAKEN.

LONG HING & CO.

PHOTO GOODS STORE,

17, QUEEN'S ROAD

(SAME PREMISES AS MESSRS. AH CHEE).

KOWLOON DOCK DANCE.

The Staff of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. last evening gave their annual dance at the Kowloon Docks. About three hundred altogether were present. The officers for the occasion were as follows:—

Honorary President—Mr. John Lambert; President—Mr. T. Neave; Committee—Messrs. Kinross, Taylor, Wynne, Davison, Baxter, Parkes and Purves; Hon. Secretary—Mr. W. M. Stewart; Assistant Hon. Secretary—Mr. R. Lapsley.

Included among those who accepted invitations were—Mr. B. Dixon (Chief Manager of the Company) and party, the Hon. Mr. R. Sheehan, Mr. W. Ramsay (Messrs. Butterfield and Swire) and Mrs. Ramsay, Mr. H. P. and Mrs. Richardson, Dr. and Mrs. Jordan, Mr. Newman Mumford (Lloyds Surveyor), Mr. A. G. and Mrs. Gordon, Mr. Donald Macdonald (of Messrs. Macdonald and Co.), Mr. F. B. Ollis (the Naval Yard Extension), Dr. and Mrs. Swan, Mr. E. O. Murphy (Messrs. Bailey and Murphy), Mr. T. Skinner (Messrs. Dodwell and Co.) and Mrs. Skinner, Mr. Focken (the Norddeutscher Lloyd) and Mrs. Focken, Capt. and Mrs. Goddard and Mr. E. C. Wilks (Messrs. Wilks and Co.).

The ball room—the largest in the Colony—was in beautiful condition and the decorations were very pretty. Above the music platform, where the band of the Royal West Kent Regiment played the dance music, was the inscription "Best wishes for 1905"; elsewhere the figures "1904" stood out in electric light. The walls were decorated with bunting, with a base of bright red cloth to set off the pale colours. Other rooms were also decorated with flags. The most attractive piece of work in connection with the supper room—the Dock reading and billiard room—was a large Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. flag in electric light, red, white and blue bulbs being used. The card room and bar were arranged as last year. The reception room at the entrance showed much colour.

Visitors were brought to and from Hongkong in Dock Company launches. Dancing commenced at half past eight and was kept up till morning. The duties of M.C. were carried out by Messrs. Neave and Kinross. There were five waltzes and five dances on the programme, other dances being Circassian circle, two barn dances, two Caledonians, two Eightsome reels, the Highland schottische, quadrille, schottische and two step. Supper was at eleven o'clock. The ball, in every respect, was an enjoyable one.

SPORTING NOTES.

There is a movement on foot to send a cricket eleven to Swatow during the Chinese New Year holidays. China New Year falls on the 4th February.

There is also talk of sending an Association football team to Shanghai. The H.K.F.C. propose to erect a respectable pavilion—to replace the present makeshift at Happy Valley. Baths and adequate dressing rooms could then be provided.

Members of the Corinthian Yacht Club will meet in Thursday next to consider rules drawn up for the Club. The season's races will also be arranged. There are now five "one designers" in the Club.

At the Kowloon Bowling Green Club, the semi-final for the Neish Cup were won by Mr. W. Deas (who beat Mr. W. Ramsay and Mr. J. Haxton who Mr. G. Edwards). The final will be played off on Monday afternoon. For the Taylor Bowls Mr. J. Gow beat Mr. G. Baxter.

SUPPOSED SUICIDE.

COMMANDER OF H.M.S. "WHITING" SHOOTS HIMSELF.

Early yesterday morning Lieutenant Commander E. F. Jellicoe, of the torpedo boat destroyer *Whiting*, was found lying in his cabin with a bullet wound in the head. A weapon was lying beside him, one of the chambers of which was discharged, and all indications point to a case of suicide. The body was removed to the Naval Mortuary, and an inquiry was held at three o'clock in the afternoon on board H.M.S. *Thetis*. The enquiry was, as usual, held in camera.

MARINE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

Friday, 30th December.

BEFORE HON. CAPT. L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE (MARINE MAGISTRATE).

NOTICE.

Communications respecting Advertisements, Subscriptions, Printing, Binding, &c., should be addressed to the Daily Press only, and special business matters to the Manager.

Orders for extra copies of DAILY PRESS should be sent in before 11 a.m. on day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited. Only supplied for Cash.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded.

Telegraphic Address: Press. Codes: A.B.C., 5th Ed. Lieber's.

P.O. Box, 33. Telephone No. 12.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS



NOTICE.

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that on and after TUESDAY, the 3rd January, 1905, the SUPPLY of WATER will be TURNED ON in the Public Mains in the Peak District during the following hours only:

PEAK DISTRICT.

From Peak to Victoria Gap, from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m.

From Victoria to District bounded by Plantation Road, from 7 a.m. to 8.30 a.m.

In Mount Gough District, from 8.30 a.m. to 9.15 a.m.

In Mount Kellett District, from 9.15 a.m. to 11 a.m.

In Barker Road, from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.

In Magazine Gap District, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

P. N. H. JONES,
Water Authority.

Public Works Department,
Hongkong, 30th December, 1904. [3027]

NOTICE.

THE Proprietor begs to Notify the Public that any Claims against the VICTORIA HAIR DRESSING SALOON must be sent in to J. I. TAVARES, 28, Morrison Bill Road.

Hongkong, 31st December, 1904. [3029]

DOCTOR WANTED.

FOR EMIGRANT STEAMER.

Apply to—
"S. A. L. A."
Care of Daily Press Office.
Hongkong, 31st December, 1904. [3029]

TO LET.

ONE FURNISHED BEDROOM, in Des Vaux Road. Central position. Light and airy. Or can be let as an Office.

Apply to—
Care of Daily Press Office.
Hongkong, 31st December, 1904. [3030]

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

THE COMPETITION TO-DAY (SATURDAY), the 31st instant, will be for SPOONS, commencing at 2.30 p.m. Ranges: 200, 500 and 600 yards. Seven Shots and a Sighter at each Range.

M. S. NORTHCOTE,
Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 31st December, 1904. [3031]

NOTICE.

A MEETING of the KOWLOON PIGEON CLUB will be held at the KOWLOON HOTEL at 9 o'clock p.m. on WEDNESDAY NEXT, the 4th January, 1905. All interested in Pigeons are invited.

It is proposed to have a Show of Pigeons on the next Chinese New Year's Day. Particulars will be published after the meeting.

R. H. DAVID,
Hon. Secretary.

Kowloon Hotel,
30th December, 1905. [3031]

IN THE MATTER OF THE OLIVE'S FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

IN LIQUIDATION.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on and after SATURDAY, 7th January, 1905, the Liquidator is prepared to distribute a first and final dividend of THIRTEEN CENTS per share to those shareholders who apply for same and deposit their share certificates at the Office of the undersigned, St. George's Buildings, Chater Road, Hongkong.

A. R. LOWE,
Liquidator.

Hongkong, 29th December, 1904. [3032]

IN THE MATTER OF THE QUEEN'S MINES, LIMITED.

IN LIQUIDATION.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on and after SATURDAY, 7th January, 1905, the Liquidator is prepared to distribute a first and final dividend of NINE-TENTHS OF ONE CENT per share to those shareholders who apply for same and deposit their share certificates at the Office of the undersigned, St. George's Buildings, Chater Road, Hongkong.

A. R. LOWE,
Liquidator.

Hongkong, 29th December, 1904. [3033]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from J. W. L. OLIVER, Esq., to sell by Public Auction,

on THURSDAY, the 5th JANUARY, 1905, at 2 p.m., within his Residence, "GREENCROFT," No. 9, Robinson Road, Kowloon,

THE WHOLE of his VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE THEREIN CONTAINED.

Comprising:—
TEAKWOOD EXTENSION DINING TABLE and CHAIRS, AMERICAN LEATHER-COVERED EASY CHAIRS, TEAKWOOD SIDEBOARD with BEVELLED GLASS, BRASS PENDERS, ICE CHEST, CAMPHOR-WOOD CHEST-OF-DRAWERS, 1 SET of ENGLISH MAKE BED ROOM FURNITURE, DINNER SERVICE, COOKING STOVE and UTENSILS, &c., &c.

Also
One COTTAGE PIANO by Collard and Collard, London, and One SINGER SEWING MACHINE (in good order and condition);

And
A Quantity of PLANTS in POTS. Catalogues will be issued.

TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 31st December, 1904. [3034]

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

SEND

in
Additions and Corrections for the
DIRECTORY AND CHRONICLE
TO-DAY.

Hongkong, 31st December, 1904.

LADIES' DIRECTORY.

THE Publishers would be glad to receive
ADDITIONS AND CHANGES OF ADDRESS
TO-DAY or TO-MORROW.

DAILY PRESS OFFICE,
Hongkong, 31st December, 1904.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

FOR NAGASAKI, KOBE AND
YOKOHAMA.

THE Bucknall Line Steamship
"BUGENTAUR,"
Captain Ritson, will be despatched for the above
ports on WEDNESDAY, the 4th January, at
DAYLIGHT.

For Freight, apply to
A. S. MIHARA,
Agent.

Hongkong, 31st December, 1904. [3035]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY,
LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOOCHEW.

THE Company's Steamship
"HAIMUN,"
Captain Robson, will be despatched for the above
ports on WEDNESDAY, the 4th January, at
NOON.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
DOUGLAS LARPAIK & CO.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 31st December, 1904. [3036]

NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

IN Accordance with Government Notification
No. 358, the EXCHANGE BANKS will
be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public
Business on MONDAY and TUESDAY, the
2nd and 3rd January, 1905.

Hongkong, 29th December, 1904. [3032]

FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF
HONGKONG.

NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
FIRE INSURANCE OFFICES will
be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public
Business on MONDAY and TUESDAY, the
2nd and 3rd January, 1905, respectively.

By Order,
A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 30th December, 1904. [3019]

WANTED.

AT ONCE, a First-class HOUSE of Five
or Six Rooms. Good Location. Willing
to pay \$200 for suitable place.

Apply to—
M.
Care of Daily Press Office.
Hongkong, 2nd December, 1904. [2801]

WANTED.

ELDERLY MAN, Portuguese, Parson or
other, as factory STOCKKEEPER and
TIMEKEEPER.

Apply—
ROBINSON PIANO CO., LD.
Hongkong, 21st December, 1904. [2949]

SITUATION WANTED.

YOUNG COMPETENT ACCOUNT-
ANT, 35 Years' Eastern experience,
good knowledge of Shipping, Insurance, &c.,
requires Permanent Position. Highest creden-
tials and bond if necessary.

Apply—
"POSITION,"
Care of Daily Press Office.
Hongkong, 24th December, 1904. [2980]

SITUATION WANTED.

ENGLISHMAN, (33) just from home,
Requires Situation. Price of Years London
Office. Thorough knowledge BOOKKEEPING,
SHORTHAND, TYPEWRITING, Com-
mercial Correspondence and Office Routine
generally. First-class references.

Apply—
BOX 550.
Care of Daily Press Office.
Hongkong, 30th December, 1904. [3020]

LESSONS IN FRENCH.

NEW and easy method of learning French
in a few months, mainly by conversation
with a Frenchman. Terms very moderate.
Also Lessons in English by an English Lady,
B. R.

Care of Office of this Paper.
Hongkong, 16th May, 1903. [1703]

THE SWATOW GRASS CLOTH SILK
and DRAWN THREAD WORK
DEPARTMENT.

Wholesale and retail quotations, particulars
and samples, will be sent free on application to
the above depot.

Swatow, 8th June, 1904. [216]

THE HONGKONG WEEKLY PRESS and
CHINA OVERLAND TRADEREPORT
is now ready and contains:—

Epitome of the Week's News.
Leading Articles:—
China Association Dinner.
Murders at Hongkong.
Corea's Hard Case.
House Rent at Hongkong.
The Apostle Thomas in India.
A Tax on Mandarins.

Hongkong Jointing
Hongkong Sanitary Board.
Supreme Court.
The International Cotton Manufacturing
Co., Ltd.
The Ewo Cotton Spinning, Weaving,
Co., Ltd.
The Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.
Distressed Sailors at Hongkong.
Hongkong.
Far Eastern Items.
Trade Items.
Commercial.
Shipping.

Subscription, \$12 per Annum, payable in
advance, postage \$2.
Extra copies 20 cents each, Cash.
Copies can be posted from the Office to
addresses sent, including postage 34 cents each,
or \$1 for three, copies Cash.

Hongkong, 31st December, 1904. [3034]

INTIMATIONS

THEATRE ROYAL
CITY HALL.

FAREWELL OF THE LITTLE
FAVOURITES.

FOR TWO NIGHTS ONLY.

POLLARD'S
LILLIPUTIAN
OPERA COMPANY.

TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY), DEC. 31st
and MONDAY, JANUARY 2nd,
(For the First time in Hongkong).

"KING DODO."

TO-DAY
(MATINEE SATURDAY), at 3.30 p.m.
"THE LADY SLAVEY."

PRICES AS USUAL.

Box Plans at the ROBINSON PIANO CO
Hongkong, 27th December, 1904. [2927]

HONGKONG REGATTA.

A REGATTA under the Patronage of

H.E. The GOVERNOR,
H.E. Vice-Admiral Sir G. NOEL, K.C.B.,
K.C.M.G.,
H.E. Major-General VILLIERS HATTON,
C.B.

Commodore G. G. DICKEN, R.N.,
will include the following Races:—

1. THE GOVERNOR'S CUP: A Challenge
Cup presented by H.E. The Governor,
for four crews; limited to residents of Hong-
kong. Each crew to be drawn from a
single unit, defined as: A Regiment, a
Ship, a Corps, the Volunteers, a Firm, or
any body of gentlemen working together
in the same profession or calling. If any
one unit is not strong enough to provide a
complete crew, then any combination of two
similar units may be made. A Club whose
object is rowing simply is not eligible to
compete. Entrance fee, \$10.

2. OPEN FOURS: the crews will be
made up by the Committee from the
entries received. Limited to Hongkong.
Entrance fee, \$10.

3. OPEN PAIRS: Entrance fee, \$5.
4. PAIRS: Entrance fee, \$5.
5. PAIRS: Entrance fee, \$5.

6. OPEN TUB SCULLS: Entrance fee, \$2.50.
7. MEN-O-WAR GIGS AND WHALERS.
Entrance fee, \$1. Post entries allowed.

8. MEN-O-WAR CUTTERS: Entrance fee,
\$1. Post entries allowed.

AND THREE SAILING RACES:
1. H.E. THE GOVERNOR'S CUP for Cruising
Yachts, English Rig.

2. THE COMMODORE OF R.E.N.Y.C.'s Cup
for Cruisers, Chinese Rig.

3. A HANDICAP for all Yachts under 26
feet linear rating. Entrance fee, \$4.

Rowing Course—One Mile. It is hoped to
arrange a course off Waichai.

Boats to be approved by the Committee. By
kind permission of the V.R.C. and the
H.K.B.C., boats will be provided for the first
6 races (in training and at the meeting) on ap-
plication by intending competitors to the Com-
mittee.

Invitations have been sent to other Boat
Clubs in the Far East to compete in the Open
Races.

ENTRIES CLOSE ON FEBRUARY 1st,
1905, and should be sent to the Hon. Secretary,
Central Station. The Committee is constitu-
ed as follows: Colonel L. F. Brown, R.E., Chair-
man; Messrs. E. W. Mitchell, A. Chapman,
G. A. Caldwell, C. H. Gale, F. W. Warro, and
H. F. Chard, Hon. Treasurer.

E. R. HALLIFAX,
Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 24th December, 1904. [2887]

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

NOTICE.

THE date of the Closing of Entries for the
FORTHCOMING RACE MEETING
is POSTPONED until SATURDAY, the
14th January, 1905.

By Order,
T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.

Hongkong, 30th December, 1904. [3018]

AT THE CATHOLIC UNION,
GLENEALY.

GRAND CHRISTMAS Pantomime.

ALI BABA, or the FORTY THIEVES.

In Aid of Funds to provide Xmas Treats to 700
Poor Children and 200 Poor Old People.

Dates of Performance. Price of Admission.
WEDNESDAY, Jan. 4, 9 p.m. \$1
FRIDAY, " 6, 9 p.m. \$1
SATURDAY, " 7, 5 p.m. \$1 & children 50c.

Tickets can be had at the above address, where
the plans of seats are on view.
Seats Booked for the 2nd prox. are cancelled.
Hongkong, 21st December, 1904. [2953]

A. LING & CO.,
FURNITURE STORE.

PLATED GLASS AND CROCKERY
WARE, &c., &c.; and FOOCHEW
LACQUERED WARE.
68, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
Hongkong, 21st September, 1903. [2276]

AUCTION.
THE Undersigned has received instructions
to Sell by Public Auction,
TO-DAY (SATURDAY),
the 31st DECEMBER, 1904, at 11.30 a.m., at his
SALES ROOMS, Duddell Street,
A QUANTITY OF
ENGLISH BOOTS AND SHOES,
Comprising:
BROWN KID, BROWN GLACE, BLACK
BOX CALF, BLACK CALF, BLACK KID,
BLACK GLACE, &c., &c., &c.

A Quantity of MESS GEAR OF H.M.S.
BRAMBLE and BRITOMART, Comprising:
ELECTRO-WARE, KITCHEN UTEN-
SILS, TABLE LINEN, &c., &c.
On View from Friday, the 30th December.
TERMS:—Cash on delivery.
GEO. P. LAMBERT,
Auctioneer.

Hongkong, 29th December, 1904. [3015]

PUBLIC COMPANIES

WO SHUN STEAMBOAT COMPANY,
LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL
MEETING of the Wo Shun Steamboat
Company, Limited, will be held at the
REGISTERED OFFICE of the Company,
No. 138, Connaught Road, Victoria, Hongkong,
on MONDAY, the 9th day of January, 1905, at
2 o'clock in the Afternoon, when the subjoined
resolution which was passed at the Extra-
ordinary General Meeting held on the 22nd day
of December, 1904, will be submitted for
confirmation as a special resolution.

RESOLUTION.
That the capital of the Company be increased
to \$140,000 by the creation of 800 new shares
of \$100 each.

By Order of the Board,
HUNG HING CHUN,
Manager.

Dated 30th December 1904. [3023]

HUMPHREYS' ESTATE AND FINANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a
Call of \$7.50 per Share has been made
in respect of all Shares not fully paid up,
and that such call is Payable on 3rd January, 1905,
at the Registered Office of the Company,
Alexandra Buildings, Des Vaux Road, Hong-
kong.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 1st November, 1904. [2573]

THE GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH
COMPANY, LIMITED.

HONGKONG STATION.

REFERRING to the Company's Notice of
19th September, according to which the
rate of collection for Telegram Charges was
fixed at dollars 0.44 equal to Prc. 1.90 for
the quarter ending 31st December, 1904, Senders
of Telegrams are hereby advised that the said
rate will remain unaltered subject to revision
after 3 months dating from 1st January, 1905.

OLAF NIELSEN,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 20th December, 1904. [2839]

THE EASTERN EXTENSION AUSTRA-
LASIA AND CHINA TELEGRAPH
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

WE Beg to Notify Customers that from
1st January, 1905, Separate Accounts
will be rendered for Aerated Waters.
An inclusive charge will be made for Waters
and Bottles, and full credit will be allowed for
empties when returned.

Orders for Aerated Waters should be
addressed to
A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,
Aerated Water Manufactory,
Des Vaux Road Central.

PRICE LIST:
\$1.20 per dozen will be allowed for Aerated
Water Bottles when returned in good condition.

Soda Water ... \$1.70
Soda Water in Bombay Bottles ... 1.80
Potash Seltzer and B.P. Soda ... 1.80
Lemonade ... 1.80
Tonic Water ... 1.80
Lithia Water ... 1.85
Ginger Ale ... 1.85
Lemon Squash ... 1.95
Raspberrys ... 1.95
Stone Ginger Beer ... 1.95

Hongkong, 28th December, 1904. [3012]

THE VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

NOTICE.

WE Beg to Notify Customers that from
1st January, 1905, Separate Accounts
will be rendered for Aerated Waters.
An inclusive charge will be made for Waters
and Bottles, and full credit will be allowed for
empties when returned.

Orders for Aerated Waters should be
addressed to
THE VICTORIA DISPENSARY,

PRICE LIST:
\$1.20 per dozen will be allowed for Aerated
Water Bottles when returned in good condition.

Soda Water ... \$1.70
Soda Water in Bombay Bottles ... 1.80
Potash Seltzer and B.P. Soda ... 1.80
Lemonade ... 1.80
Tonic Water ... 1.80
Lithia Water ... 1.85
Ginger Ale ... 1.85
Lemon Squash ... 1.95
Raspberrys ... 1.95
Stone Ginger Beer ... 1.95

Hongkong, 28th December, 1904. [3003]

WATKINS, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

WE Beg to Notify Customers that from
1st January, 1905, Separate Accounts
will be rendered for Aerated Waters.
An inclusive charge will be made for Waters
and Bottles, and full credit will be allowed for
empties when returned.

Orders for Aerated Waters should be
addressed to
WATKINS, LIMITED.

PRICE LIST:
\$1.20 per dozen will be allowed for Aerated
Water Bottles when returned in good condition.

Soda Water ... \$1.70
Soda Water in Bombay Bottles ... 1.80
Potash Seltzer and B.P. Soda ... 1.80
Lemonade ... 1.80
Tonic Water ... 1.80
Lithia Water ... 1.85
Ginger Ale ... 1.85
Lemonade ... 1.95
Raspberrys ... 1.95
Stone Ginger Beer ... 1.95

Hongkong, 28th December, 1904. [3004]

INTIMATIONS

SWATOW DISTRICT.

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS,
No. 45.

WRECK OF THE S.S. "WORKFIELD."
Wreck of the British Steamer Workfield
has sunk in about 18 fathoms at low water
spring tides.

Cape of Good Hope bearing N. 45° W. 15
Miles. (Approximate).

A. HOLZ,
Harbour Master.

Approved,
FRANK SMITH,
Acting Commissioner of Customs.

Custom House,
Swatow, 27th December, 1904. [3014]

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF
HONGKONG.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Action No. 231 of 1904.

Plaintiff:—LOO WING KEE of Nos. 2 and 4,
Kai On Street, Victoria, Hongkong, Cast
Iron Founder.

Defendants:—The YU HING LUNG Firm of
Nos. 35 and 37, Station Street, Mongkok,
Yammat, Hongkong, Boiler and Machinery
Makers.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a
Writ of Foreign Attachment returned on
the 9th day of January, 1905, against all the
property movable and immovable of the above
named Defendants within the Colony has been
issued in this action pursuant to the provisions
of Chapter XVII of the Hongkong Code of
Civil Procedure.

Dated the 29th day of December, 1904.
B. A. HARDING,
Solicitor for the Plaintiff.

3022

WEISMANN LTD.

ROBINSON PIANO Co. LD.

SPECIAL

NEW YEAR PRESENTS.

MASTER PIANO PLAYERS

\$325. \$495. \$595. \$700.

TESTED 5 YEARS IN HONGKONG
WITHOUT A FAILURE.

NEW SINGING MACHINES.

NOT A PHONOGRAPHIC ATTEMPT
BUT AN ACTUAL REPRODUCTION
OF THE VOICES OF THE WORLD'S
BEST SINGERS AND BANDS.

\$60 TO \$125.

BECHSTEIN

ROYAL PIANOS

AND THE BEST MAKERS OF
EUROPE.

OUR OWN MAKE

\$400 TO \$550.

CASH OR CREDIT SYSTEM.

Hongkong, 9th December, 1904. [2150]



MITSU BISHI GOSHI-KWAISHA
(MITSU BISHI CO.)

COAL DEPARTMENT
MARUNO-UCHI, TOKIO.

Cable Address: "IWASAKI,"
which applies to all Branch Offices and Hong-
kong and Shanghai Agencies.

AI, ABC 5th Edition, Western Union Code.

All Letters Addressed—

MANAGER, MITSUBISHI CO., with name of

"place under"

BRANCH OFFICES—

NAGASAKI, MOJI, KOBE, KARATSU

AND HANKOW.

AGENCIES—

SHANGHAI: H. J. H. TRIPP.

HONGKONG: H. U. JEFFRIES.

MANILA: COMPANIA MARITIMA.

YOKOHAMA: M. ASADA.

CONTRACTORS OF COAL to the Im-

perial Japanese Navy and Foreign Navies; the

Imperial Arsenal; the Imperial Railway;

Sanyo, Kinshu and the other Principal Rail-

ways; Industrial Works; Home and Foreign

Mail and Freight Steamers.

EXPORTERS OF COAL to Hongkong,

Shanghai, Hankow, Singapore, Manila, North

China, Korean ports and America.

SOLE PROPRIETORS of Takashima,

Osaka, Shinjima, Naniwa and Kami-Yamada

Collieries and also Hojo Colliery, which will be

ready to produce on a large scale the best Fuzon

Coal from 1905.

Sole Agents for Kigio, Komatsu (Tagawa)

and Matsushima Coals.

The Head and Branch Offices and the Agen-

cies of the Company will receive any order for

Coals produced from the above Collieries.

Coal sold in 1903 by the Company amounted

to 1,200,000 tons.

TAKASHIMA COAL.

New and additional shafts at the Takashima

Colliery have been completed and this well-

known best and most economical steam coal in

the East is now produced in abundance and

can be supplied in any quantity.

Hongkong, 28th April, 1904. [11]

CARBOLINEUM-AVENARIUS

FOR WHOLESALE CASK OF

ABOUT 450 LBS. NET

Known all over the World as a thoroughly

effective preservative of Wood against White Ants

Fungus, Dry-rot, Decay.

Number of Testimonials from Authorities as

well as from Private Customers.

LUGGENS, EISENMANN & CO

Sole Agents for China.

Hongkong, 19th July, 1904. 361

INTIMATIONS

HIRANO WATER.

THE QUEEN OF TABLE WATERS.
PURE, SPARKLING, INVIGORATING.

THE LEADING MINERAL WATER OF THE EAST
Bottled in Japan by H. E. REYNELL & Co.

BEWARE OF JAPANESE IMITATIONS.

F. BLACKHEAD & CO., AGENTS.
Hongkong, 31st July, 1903. 2578

PASSENGERS to England met on arrival.
BAGGAGE checked, forwarded, stored.
Lowest rates. Agents to Board of Agriculture.
for importation of Eggs. Special attention to
Bills of Lading—Write CURRISS & SONS
LD., 23 WEST SMITHFIELD, LONDON, ENG-
LAND. 1856

DARLINGTON'S HANDBOOKS

"Sir Henry Ponsonby is com-
manded by the Queen to thank Mr.
Darlington for a copy of his Hand-
book."

"Nothing better could be wished for."—
British Weekly.

"Far superior to ordinary guides."—
Daily Chronicle.

Visitors to London should use

DARLINGTON'S

LONDON. "A brilliant book."—The Times.

"Particularly good."—Academy.

by E. C. COOK & Enlarged Edition

AND E. T. COOK, M.A.

24 Maps and Plans

60 Illustrations.

60 Illustrations.

10 Maps; 6s.

DEVON AND

CORNWALL

50 Illustrations.

12 Maps; 6s.

Visitors to Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings

Bournemouth, Wye Valley, Severn Valley

Bath, Weston-super-mare, Malvern, Hereford

Worcester, Gloucester, Llandrindod Wells,

Llangollen, Aberystwyth, Towyn, Barmouth

Dolgelly, Harlech, Criccieth, Pwllheli,

Llandudno, Rhyl, Bettws-y-coed, Isle of

Wight, and Channel Islands should send for

DARLINGTON'S HANDBOOKS in each

case. THE HOTELS OF THE WORLD

A Handbook to the leading Hotels throughout

the World.

LLANGOLLEN: DARLINGTON & CO.

LONDON: SIMPKIN & CO. [77]

AN APPEAL.

THE SISTERS who direct St. ANTONIO'S

CONVENT at Macao will be very thankful

to Shop-keepers, Linen-drillers, Clothiers and

Tailors in Hongkong, Macao, and elsewhere who

will send to them remnants of material, books

of patterns no longer used, and any pieces of

cloth, no matter how small, of which they can

not make use.

Those who send will thus, at no cost to

themselves, afford the numerous hands in the

convent, especially the little ones, opportunity

for useful occupation; for pieces of cloth, even

of a square inch, can be stitched together and

very pretty pieces of work made out of cloth

that would otherwise be thrown away. These

articles are bought by charitable persons, and

the Sisters are thus helped to keep up their

very large establishment, which is maintained by

the alms of friends and in a great measure by

the earnings of the girls themselves, who lead

by no means an idle life within the convent

walls.

Hongkong, 18th May, 1904. [17]

THE

JOB PRINTING

DEPARTMENT

OF THE

"HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"

IS REPLETE WITH ALL THE LATEST

AND MOST UP-TO-DATE APPLI-

ANCES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF

FIRST-CLASS WORK.

ALL DESCRIPTIONS OF

ILLUSTRATED

CATALOGUES,

CIRCULARS,

VISITING CARDS,

AND

COMMERCIAL

PRINTING

TURNED OUT ACCURATELY, AND

WITH THE GREATEST DESPATCH,

UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION

OF EXPERIENCED EUROPEANS.

BOOK BINDING.

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GOLD LETTERING

AND

MARBLING, ETC.,

ALL EXECUTED ON THE PREMISES

AT THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

LAW WORK,

LEDGERS AND ACCOUNT

BOOKS

AT PRICES WHICH COMPARE

FAVOURABLY WITH ANY OTHER

PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT IN THE

FAR EAST. ESTIMATES FURNISHED

Hongkong, 1904. 361

BECALMED.

BY CHARLES J. H. HALCOMBE.

"And I have loved thee, Ocean! and my joy
Of youthful spirit was on thy breast to be
Born, like thy bubbles, onward; from a boy
I wanted with thy breakers; they to me
Were a delight; and if the freshening sea
Made them a terror, 'twas a pleasing fear;
For I was, as it were, a child of thee,
And trusted to thy billows far and near,
And laid my hand upon thy mane—as I do here."

We are in the centre of the great Indian
Ocean. It is perfectly calm, and there is not
even a ripple upon the glassy surface of the
deep. The dark waters undulate as though
lightly breathing, as the swells of the ocean
glide noiselessly beneath our keel and roll
onward to break upon some remote shore. The
rays of the moon quiver and scintillate upon
this vast expanse, dappling it with silvery gauze,
and forming an ever-widening track which
stretches away toward the ultimate reaches of
the sea, like a path to some enchanted land.

There is little twilight in these regions. The
sun swiftly descends through the western sky,
and finally plunges into the blue depths with a
mighty splash of colouring, which tinges sea
and sky with its ruddy light. The radiance spreads
heavenward like a diaphanous fan edged with
prismatic hues; and then the twilight glory
trembles for a brief while, and quickly fades, as
fold upon fold of this magic fan falls into the
deep crimson afterglow which precedes the
gloom of night. Stars titfully glim through a
purple haze and are reflected upon the torpid
plain below, and now and again the weird cry of
a frigate or some other solitary sea-bird may
grat the listening ear as it settles down to rest
and drift upon the silent tide or soars
round the ship on outstretched wing like a
watchful spirit of the desert, speaking to the
world-stranded mariner of his utter loneliness.

I am standing upon the poop-deck of a stout
old barque whose strong timbers have borne
many a fierce gale and many a long voyage,
though they are now creaking with a mourn-
ful sound suggestive of great age. Yes, this
venerable craft has carried many a good man
away from the dear homeland and over this
trackless waste of waters, never to return, and
has ploughed her liquid way around the wide
world before steamers were invented to chide
water into seething foam and detract from the
impressive grandeur and romance of the ocean.

We are becalmed. Our vessel's sky-scraping
cloud of canvas hangs against the tall pine
mast, and having lost the symmetrical curves
which only a breeze can give seem limp and
inanimate yet alive with airy vibrations. The
seamen are lying in groups upon the
forward deck, and dark shadows fit to and
fro across their sleeping forms and creep
down over the bulwarks to wriggle about
in noiseless mummery over the face of the
adjacent waters. All is strangely still; my
very heart seems hushed with awe as I watch
and wait for a breath of wind to wait us for-
ward on our course.

One might almost imagine that this is the
night after some terrible sea-fight, and that
this lone barque is burdened with the slain over-
whelmed by the deep are keeping a last
vigil as she drifts on through the darkness of
the desert to meet the mighty Storm King who
will come and bear these lights of the sea
away to some fair "Isle of Rest" beyond the
ken of mortal man.

"Oh! many a glorious voice is gone
From the rich bowers of earth,
And hushed is a many lovely one
Of merriment and mirth.

The Dorian flute that sigh'd of yore
Along the vale is still;
The harp of Judah peals no more
On Zion's awful hill.

But thou art swelling on, thou Deep,
Through many an olden clime,
The billowy anthem never to sleep
Until the close of time."

The helmsman is listlessly leaning over the
wheel, with his bearded chin resting between the
spokes. In superstitious trust he leisurely looks
around and whistles for a breeze, and at intervals
he gazes vacantly into the binnet where a dull
light throws forth its rays upon his sunburnt
face. I, the officer on watch, am leaning over
the taffrail and lingeringly looking into the blue
depths of "memory's magic glass," wherein I
see reflected the dear homeland haunts of my
youth; while the look-out man on the fore-castle
head is resting against the capstan with his arms
folded and his head bowed. He seems to be
listening also intently to the deep-voiced songs
of a wind-bound ship and a slumbering sea.

As I stand here to-night gazing upon this
grand and solemn scene, thoughts of the past
that are no more fill my mind with a sweet
sadness which it is good for a world-hardened
man to sometimes feel. I remember, when
a child, being at the seaside, and wonder-
ingly watching the great ships as they came
and went, sweeping past under a swelling cloud
of white canvas, and gradually fading in the

dim distance beyond the horizon, some of them
bound to the uttermost parts of the world. In
those days I used to regard all classes of ocean
with much veneration; for the sea was full of
charm and mystery to me. Moreover, my dear
old uncle Bob was a sailor, and when he came
home from his long voyages he would tell of
the wonderful sights he had seen and the
distant lands he had visited. I became so
absorbed in everything connected with nautical
affairs that at last I prevailed upon him to take
me away with him in his fine ship the *Wild
Wave*. He died, and was buried at sea during
our passage home.

Ah! Well do I remember that time. He
died at about four o'clock, in the last watch of
the morning. I had kept a long vigil at his
bedside, but now that all was over I
went on deck. The moon was still shining,
and a large albatross wheeled its silent flight
round our stern. Not a ripple disturbed the
tranquillity of the ocean, and the ship lay
motionless.

We were then in lat. 32 deg. 25 min. south,
and long. 25 deg. 31 min. west, and were
braced up on the port tack. My uncle's body
was sewn up in canvas and weighted at the feet;
and towards dawn four sailors carried his
remains on deck. All hands now stood with
uncovered heads at the main braces, and as
eight bells sounded the ensign was hoisted
half-mast. The bier lay resting upon an open
port with the Union Jack as pall. Then the
chief officer gave the command: "Back
the main yards!" And with steady, solemn
heads the men walked forward, pulling the
hoses and thus squaring the ponderous yards.
When the vessel was hove to the funeral service
was read, and as the words "Dust thou art to
dust thou shalt return" rang out two of the
oldest mariners on board tearfully launched
their good captain's body into its deep-sea grave.

He is not confined in a darkened vault,
Nor laid in a narrow bed,
But sleeps on a field of crystal salt
With a cloudless sky overhead.

Where the sweetest flow'rs of an unknown land,
Unseen and beyond our sight,
Shall never be plucked by a mortal hand
Or veiled by an earthly light.

Since then I have been alone in the world,
and have wandered so far and so long, that I
have learned many of the mystic secrets of the
sea. But a calm always brings back to my mind
hallowed memories of the past and of my
childhood.

Hark! Eight bells sound. Lights glimmer
in the fore-castle; the sleepers awake, and the
watches muster on the quarter-deck. "All aft,
sir," says the boatswain. "Relieve the wheel
and look out," is the order I give in response.
Now I will go below.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

Messrs. Vernon & Smyth say in their weekly
share report, dated Hongkong, 30th December,
1904. During the week under review, the
settlements have continued to overshadow the
market, and we have but little business to re-
port. The continued rise in the rate of sterling
exchange is still exercising a depressing effect,
while the Christmas holidays have also assisted
to keep the market dull and more or less
depressed.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have
weakened a little to \$170, at which rate a few
shares have been on offer, the market closing
steady at that rate with the London rate
unchanged £70.10. Nationals remain unchang-
ed and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have ruled
steadier with buyers and no sellers at \$690.
China Traders have changed hands at \$58, and
close with buyers. Cantons remain steady at
\$250 buyers without any sales to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong have de-
clined to \$330 with sales, but close with buyers
at that rate. Chinas remain at \$90 with small
sales and buyers.

SHIPPING.—Indos, after further sales at \$127
again receded, and a fair number of shares have
changed hands at \$126 during the week. At
time of closing the market is firmer with buyers
at \$218, the latest quotation from Shanghai is
£12. 21, and from London £12. 5. A demand
for shares forward at rather better than equiva-
lent rates is not met. Hongkong, Canton and
Macao continue to rule weak with sales and
sellers at \$28, China and Manila continue on
offer at quotation without sales. A demand for
Donnellys at \$33 has only been partially met,
and the stock closes firm at that rate. Star
Ferries remain neglected at quotations, with
only a small business in the new issue at \$29 to
report. Shells have changed hands at 26/- cum
buy, closing quiet.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled
weaker during the week and sales have been
effected at \$226 and \$227, whilst a forward
demand at equivalent rates remains unsatisfied.
The market closes fairly steady at \$227.
Luzons have slightly improved to \$16.

MINING.—With the exception of a further
decline of Ranta to \$33 we have nothing to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hong-
kong and Whampoa Docks have steadied
slightly and after sales at \$215 are enquired
for in a small way at \$216. Kowloon Wharves
have buyers at \$111, with no sales or sellers.
New Amoy Docks remain unchanged and
without business. Farham during the week
fell further to £18. 153, but rallied quickly, and
after sales at £18. 160, 163 and 165 close fairly
steady at £18. 170, which last is the closing
quotation in Shanghai.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hong-
kong Lands continue quiet at \$147 sellers,
and buyers could probably be satisfied at under
that rate. Kowloon Lands, West Point and
Humphreys remain unchanged and without
business. Hongkong Hotels have further
declined to \$144, closing with sellers.

COTTON.—No changes or business to report
under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements have changed
hands at \$30, and Powells at \$123. Albion
are enquired for at \$100; Campbell, Moores
at \$40, China Borneos at \$153, Dairy Farms
at \$30, cum new issue. China Gas at \$190, and
South China Morning Posts at \$21, while in
other stocks under this heading sellers at quo-
tations rule the market.

Messrs. — Humphreys' Estate and Finance
Co., Ltd. call of \$750 on shares not fully paid
up (new issue) due 2nd January, 1905.

CLARKE'S B 41 PILLS are
warranted to cure in either sex, all acquired or
constitutional from the Discharges Urinary
Organs, Gravel, and Pains in the Back. Free
from Mercury. Established upwards of 30
years. Sold by all Chemists and Patent
Medicine Vendors throughout the World.
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